

House Republican Press Release

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Hetherington Backs Campaign Finance Bill



Representative Cites Proposal as Offering Hope for Real Change

State Rep. John W. Hetherington, R125th, New Canaan, Wilton, threw his support behind a measure to impose tough limits on political contributions, sharply restrict the role of lobbyists, and provide campaign financing in state executive and legislative races. The financing, effective in 2008, would not be paid for by taxpayers.

"This bill is not perfect by any means," Hetherington said. "I have severe reservations about public financing, but the need for reform is clear and this measure is a start and is worth a try. We will need to carefully monitor and revisit the measure if it becomes law." Among the issues he identified for possible revision are the amounts and source of funds. Under the bill, State Senator candidates who raise \$20,000 would qualify for \$120,000 in grants. House candidates who raise \$7,500 would qualify to receive \$27,500. "The grant amounts are patently excessive, the Representative commented, and I don't want then to become a burden on taxpayers."

Governor M. Jodi Rell has called for campaign finance reform along the lines of the bill Hetherington supports. "The Governor has taken the lead," he said. "The Democrats who control the Legislature have talked about reform. Let's see if they are serious."

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